

Tennessee State Capitol,
Nashville,
Tennessee.

HABS No. 19-51
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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
CENTRAL UNIT—ST. LOUIS

Historic American Buildings Survey
J. Frazer Smith, District Officer
Goodwyn Institute Bldg., Memphis, Tenn.

THE TENNESSEE STATE CAPITOL
Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee

Owner: State of Tennessee

Date of Erection: 1845 (begun)

Architect: William Strickland

Builder: No record

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Three, and basement

Materials of Construction: Limestone

Other Existing Records: See text

Additional Data: See following pages

**DATA NOT COMPILED AND NOT GUARANTEED
BY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS**

THE TENNESSEE STATE CAPITOL
Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee

1-

HISTORY AND ARCHITECTURE:

The Tennessee State Capitol is owned and occupied by the State of Tennessee, possession was taken by the State Legislature on October 7th 1843. The Legislature accepted from the citizens of Nashville the building site known as Campbell's Hill. This property was purchased from G. W. Campbell for \$30,000 and as a result of this gift the building site was moved from Kingston, Tennessee to Nashville.

On January 30th 1844 an act was passed making the first appropriation of \$10,000 for the Capitol building, Commissioners were appointed and proceeded to secure the services of Architect Mr. William Strickland of Philadelphia, Pa.

Excavation was begun on January 1st 1845, on July 4th of this same year the ground levels were reached and the corner stone was laid amid ceremonies. The building was continued without interruption until the death of Mr. Strickland, April 7th 1854. Funeral ceremonies were conducted in the Hall of Representatives, and his body was entombed in a recess in the walls of the north basement portico, where it remains today. After the death of Mr. Strickland the work was completed by his son, Mr. Francis W. Strickland. The last stone of the tower was laid July 21st 1855, and the building completed with the completion of the lower terrace on March 15th 1859.

The total cost of the improvements was upward of two and one half millions dollars.

All foundation and footing work is executed in brick. The superstructure walls are of Tennessee lime stone of a slightly Flemish grey tint with a slight sprinkling of fossil shells and cloud-like markings, the exterior walls are as great as seven feet thick at the foundation and four and one-half feet at the roof line, inner walls are from three feet thick to eighteen inches thick, all of solid limestone. All stone was quarried within a half mile of the building site and probably accounts for some of the extreme dimensions used. There are stones recorded measuring eight feet wide and fourteen feet long. So perfectly are these stones executed that it is difficult to find the joints. This stone, however, is weathering fast and shows an inferior quality as compared with limestone of other locations.

The doors, window frames, sash and all wood work are of Tennessee oak, the main stairways are of stone, stairways in the library and towers are of cast-iron, the roof trusses are of

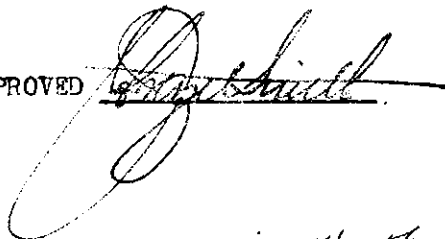
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The Tennessee State Capitol - continued

wrought-iron, flat sections with tin roof which replaced the original copper roof several years ago.

The authority ⁱⁿ for the above statements ~~are~~ the original documents, comprising a fairly complete procedure of the building program from beginning to end. The documents can be reviewed by special permission from the State Librarian and Archivist in the Capitol building in Nashville.

APPROVED

*Reviewed, H.C. F., 1936*

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Addendum to
Tennessee State Capitol
Capitol Boulevard
Nashville
Davidson County
Tennessee

HABS No. TN-51

HABS,
TENN.,
19-NASH,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Architectural and Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240